

Progress Report
on
Protection and Legal Action against Women & Child
Trafficking

For the period
July 01 to December 31, 2001

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Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association
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Progress Report

Reporting Period: July 1 - December 31, 2001

Project Title: Protection and Legal Action against Women & Child Trafficking

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Performance Report for the period July 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001

Introduction/Justification/Summary

Introduction

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) is one of the pioneer organizations in the field of human rights in Bangladesh. Along with many other human rights related activities BNWLA is also working with trafficking in women and children issue. Since inception, the organization rescued and released a large number of trafficked victims from various confinements such as brothel, cage brothel, safe custody etc. within the country. It also repatriated trafficked victims from India, Pakistan and UAE and rehabilitated them through reintegration into the society. To expedite its anti trafficking activities the organization has undertaken a project entitled **"Protection and Legal Action against Women and Child Trafficking"** with the financial assistance and technical support of United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID made this grant in recognition of BNWLA's endeavors towards providing protection and legal support to women and children who are victim of trafficking. It is expected that with the implementation of the project basic human rights of women and children will be protected in Bangladesh. This report intends to present information on the program implementation under the aforementioned project covering the period from July 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001.

Objectives:

Protection and Legal Action Against Women and Child Trafficking program focused its activities to achieve the following major objectives:

- ❖ Provide assistance to secure more arrests and prosecutions concerning trafficking;
- ❖ Operationalize the existing legal procedures on child/women trafficking to secure more arrests and prosecutions;
- ❖ Repatriate trafficked children and women from other countries;
- ❖ Rehabilitate the victims of trafficking through integration to family and employment.

Justification

Trafficking in women and children within the territory and outside Bangladesh is a common phenomenon. Uneducated and vulnerable women and children who are deprived of legal, social and financial support and opportunities easily become subjects of versatile exploitation and harassment. Poor and disadvantaged children and women are often trafficked from Bangladesh to India, Pakistan and the Middle East for various kinds of bonded labor such as camel jockeys, prostitution and sex slavery etc. The victims are either abducted or allured with promises of better life by providing lucrative job or marriage offers and false proposals to visit holy places. But practically they become victims of trafficking and embrace the lives of agony and torture.

Lack of education, poverty and overpopulation are the key factors for trafficking. Most of the victims are women, adolescent girls and minor boys. BNWLA felt that concerted efforts with comprehensive program of legal action against the traffickers, rescue and release of trafficked victims from different kinds of confinements such as safe custody, brothel, cage brothel within the territory, repatriation of victims of cross border trafficking and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking should be undertaken to combat trafficking in women and children. BNWLA initiated the program to effectively reduce the incidents of the trafficking in women and children in the country as well as develop sustainable protection mechanisms for the victims and potential high-risk group of internal and cross border trafficking.

Summary

Information gathered from ten focal sites regarding trafficking cases at district level: The Field Officers have gathered detailed information about trafficking related incidents based on which legal assistance has been provided to trafficked victims. Detailed information about 102 victims of trafficking has been gathered during the reporting period. Besides, communication and liaison with various stakeholders and concerned groups have been maintained to achieve the objectives. The information gathered through field investigation has been documented both at the field offices and the head office of BNWLA.

Use district level information regarding trafficking cases to provide assistance to secure more arrests and prosecution: The concerned Field Officers at 10 districts investigated more than 112 incidents of trafficking. Subsequently 35 cases and 20 General Diary (GD) were filed with the assistance of BNWLA during the period under review. Besides, information concerning the cases has been documented on regular basis for further investigation and action. Prosecution of several cases has been going on out of which two judgments have been given where two accused have been convicted.

Operationalize the existing legal procedures on child/women trafficking in an effort to secure more arrest and prosecution: Information has been gathered about more than 100 incidents related to trafficking from 10 focal sites under the project during the period. A total of nine one-day workshops were held at nine different focal points.

Operationalize the steps required to repatriate children/women from other countries: A total of 14 trafficked victims were repatriated from different countries

and process of repatriation of a large number of victims has been finalized during the period. The Field Officers at district level visited jails, police stations and courts to monitor the cases and prosecution of the trafficking cases. In addition, a total of seven victims of internal trafficking were released under the project.

Provide rehabilitation support to trafficking victims: A total of 14 repatriated and seven internally released victims of trafficking were provided with psychosocial support during the period. Besides, a total of 20 victims have been reintegrated into the family and/or society during the period under review. The rehabilitated survivors are regularly monitored.

Description of Activities

Total activities of the project are implemented under six major domains called result. Sub-activities carried out under each of the main results during the reporting period are described below:

Result-1: Collect information regarding trafficking cases at district level

The project proposal envisages conducting a number of events under each of the six major results. A number of activities such as carry out preliminary baseline survey, liaison with stakeholders, visit thana and court for monitoring, collect and verify information, assist victims in seeking legal assistance, assist panel lawyers in prosecuting offenders, arrange group discussion meeting with various groups, develop and upgradation of data base, field visit for monitoring etc. have been carried out under this result during the reporting period.

Preliminary baseline survey: A baseline survey has been conducted under the project. Information on various aspects of trafficking in women and children has been gathered through two types of questionnaire. One questionnaire was developed to elicit information from government officials such as police, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), judges, administrative officials etc. The other questionnaire was designed for the members of the civil society including academics, lawyers, NGO activists etc. Ten focal sites where the project activities are being implemented were selected as the place for carrying out the survey.

Some of the major findings of the survey are:

The survey revealed several root causes such as broken family, poverty, for having no idea or knowledge what trafficking is all about, lack of proper implementation of law, lack of education, unemployment, child marriage/polygamy/divorce, corruption of the law enforcers, greed or unplanned ambition etc. It has been revealed through the survey that people from all walks of life are by and large informed about the consequences of trafficking. According to the responses given by the interviewees the some of the main consequences are forcefully selling of girls at brothels in home and abroad, camel jockey, slave, sex slave, begging, used for organ trade, used in pornography, engaged in hazardous labour, physical torture and abuse.

Focal points have been identified as trafficking prone areas on the basis of the information about cases on trafficking gathered during the survey. According to the findings of the survey Gopalganj is the most trafficking prone area among the 10 focal points followed by Jessore, Satkhira and Lalmonirhat. Lakshmipur has been found as the least trafficking prone area among the focal points. According to the findings revealed from the survey the main target groups of trafficking are women and children from poor family, boys aged between 2 and 12, women and children from unaware family, illiterate family, adolescent boys and girls, divorced and widow women, orphan children, women and children having no social and legal support, street children, infant, boys having less body weight.

Liaison with stakeholders: The Field Officers and Investigation Officer maintained constant contact and liaison with different stakeholders including local journalists, representatives of the local elected bodies, local NGOs, community people and gathered necessary important information. They also made them aware of the

austerity of the problems relating to trafficking in women and children. The concerned staff members of the project maintained liaison and exchanged views with the aforementioned stakeholders at least once a month.

Visit police station and court for monitoring and collect and verify information: The Investigation Officer and Field officers visited police stations, courts and maintained liaison with law enforcing agencies at their respective focal points to gather necessary information about trafficking vis-a-vis provided them with witness related information of trafficking cases. They gathered relevant information about trafficking related cases and shared them with the higher authority and the panel lawyers to take necessary action in this regard. The project staffs visited different police stations and courts 426 times during the reporting period. The following table shows month and focal site wise status of visit:

Focal Point	Dhk	Ng	Gpl	Lkp	Cox's	Djp	Lal	Cpy	Stk	Jsr	Total
Month											
July	0	2	10	6	20	14	12	5	10	7	86
August	4	2	8	8	13	0	9	4	10	9	67
September	3	2	7	4	11	15	8	5	0	9	64
October	2	2	6	6	7	18	7	7	10	7	72
November	2	3	7	5	8	18	8	8	10	5	74
December	3	2	5	4	9	13	4	7	11	5	63
Total	14	13	43	33	68	78	48	36	51	42	426

Assist victims in seeking legal assistance: A total of 35 cases (First Information Report) related to trafficking were filed with various police stations under different districts throughout the country during the reporting period. A total of 46 victims received legal assistance throughout the country under the project during the period. Of the total 35 cases three cases were lodged at Chapai Nawabganj district, one at Cox's Bazar, one at Dhaka district, Five at Dinajpur, two at Gopalganj, eight with different thanas (police station) under Jessore, two at Lalmonirhat, one at Lakshmipur, two at Narayanganj, seven at Satkhira and four cases at different districts outside the focal points have been lodged during the period. A total of 113 persons were made

accused under these cases. In addition to these, 20 General Diary (GD) were filed with different police stations during the period. A total of 34 trafficked victims related to these cases were rescued. Besides, the Field Officers of the project provided assistance to 10 panel lawyers with necessary information in prosecuting offenders of trafficking cases during the period under review. Two traffickers namely Nurul Haque Peada and Shahidul Islam Shawpon were convicted to life imprisonment under two separate cases related to women and child trafficking in August 2001. The concerned Field Officer and Panel Lawyer of Jessore focal site worked very hard in terms of providing assistance to the Public Prosecutor by mobilizing witnesses and with necessary papers and documents etc. The following table shows district wise status of the cases:

District	No. of Case	No. of Victim	No. of Trafficker
Chapai Nawabganj	3	4	12
Cox's Bazar	1	6	2
Dhaka	1	1	3
Dinajpur	5	7	20
Gopalganj	2	3	9
Jessore	8	8	21
Lalmonirhat	2	2	8
Lakshmipur	1	1	4
Narayanganj	2	2	7
Satkhira	7	9	21
Other districts	3	3	6
Total	35	46	113

Assist Panel Lawyers in prosecuting offenders: The Investigation Officer and Field Officers of the project assisted the panel lawyers at all the focal sites during the reporting period. The Field Officers gathered detailed information about the cases that helped the Panel Lawyers to a great extent in understanding and prosecuting the cases properly. The panel lawyers in turn assisted the Public Prosecutors with the permission of Solicitor. The Field Officers also mobilized witnesses for ensuring proper judgement against the traffickers. In districts outside the focal sites of the project where BNWLA does not have its own Panel Lawyer the Field Officers established rapport with reputed lawyers who are sensitized at the respective districts and engaged them in prosecuting the cases of the project.

Identify specific high profile cases for further investigation: One trafficking related case lodged with Bhola Sadar Thana under Bhola district under the project has been

identified as a high profile case. BNWLA filed the case as complainant against two alleged traffickers namely Alamgir and Kamal for their involvement in trafficking of Beauty Begum (28) and her two tiny sons Ismail (8) and Imran (5) to Dubai. According to the statement of the survivors Moslem husband of Beauty Begum and Father of Ismail and Imran was deceived with false promise of good employment in Dubai, UAE by his neighbor Alamgir and his accomplice Kamal who is a broker in Dhaka under the condition that he took his wife and two sons with him. The family went to Dubai on November 3, 1998. On arrival in Dubai Moslem and his wife Beauty realized that they had been trapped and made a big mistake. They had to sell their sons to Sheikh for 15,000 Dirham. The boys were subsequently engaged in camel jockeying. After that Moslem and his wife was separated. Beauty Begum also was tortured and harassed. Two small boys continued their painful journey as camel jockey for more than three years. At the later part of 2001 the attention of BNWLA was drawn to a report prepared by AFP and published by different Bangladeshi English and vernacular newspaper about the two tiny boys namely Imran (5) and his brother Ismail (8) who have been working as camel jockeys in the UAE for the last three years. According to the report the boys were working in the often-dangerous sport of camel racing, in which accidents can prove fatal. Now the boys' mother Beauty Begum, who was also living in UAE with the boys, was desperate to get out of the country as any cost BNWLA instantly contacted Bangladeshi Embassy in UAE as well as Labor and Employment Ministry here in Bangladesh and with their help the organization repatriated these survivor family from UAE on October 5, 2001.

After their arrival in Bangladesh the concerned project staff interviewed the family and elicited detailed information. On the basis of the information gathered from them the Investigation Officer and Counselor of the project went to Bhola with the family and filed a trafficking case accusing Alamgir and Kamal with Bhola Sadar Thana bearing the number 22 on October 8, 2001. Police is searching the two alleged traffickers but could not arrest them yet. The concerned Magistrate has already taken statement of the victims under section 164.

Discussion meeting with local journalist, local elected bodies, community people and educational institutions: The Field Officers of the project have conducted 204 discussion meetings with local journalists, local elected bodies, community people and educational institutions and tried to elicit information about trafficking and make them aware of the matter. In the meeting the Field Officers underlined the need for building a social movement against trafficking in women and children. In this connection they discussed various aspects such as causes, consequences of trafficking and mechanisms usually used by the traffickers and urged them to remain vigilant against this heinous crime. The Field Officers also inspired them to take necessary steps about trafficking issue. The following table demonstrates focal site wise organization of discussion meeting:

Focal Point	Dhk	Ng	Gpl	Lkp	Cox's	Djp	Lal	Cpy	Stk	Jsr	Total
Month											
July	0	5	7	3	4	4	3	7	4	0	37
August	0	1	6	2	10	0	2	6	4	2	33

September	3	1	5	3	4	4	2	4	0	1	27
October	2	2	5	4	1	12	1	5	6	1	39
November	0	1	4	4	11	12	2	3	4	1	42
December	2	1	4	2	3	3	2	5	3	1	26
Total	7	11	31	18	33	35	12	30	21	6	204

Database on Trafficking in Women and Children: The database developed on trafficking in women and children under the project has been upgraded on regular basis during the reporting period. The legal portion of the database has also been developed and continuously upgraded. Necessary general data is being collected by interviewing victims and their relatives and legal data through interviewing concerned law enforcers, lawyers and studying the relevant documents from all over the country. The data is being incorporated into the database by the concerned staff of BNWLA. The basic data that is being collected and incorporated into the database include victim's profile, information about traffickers, information about the incident, routes, other victims etc. Legal information about trafficking issue is also being incorporated into the database. So far data of 313 victims of trafficking has been incorporated into the database. Data input into the database is continuous process.

Field visit for monitoring: The Project Coordinator visited different focal sites to monitor the activities of the project during the reporting period. The visited focal sites are Dhaka, Narayanganj, Jessore and Satkhira.

Coordination meeting: A regular monthly coordination meeting with the Field Officers has been held to yield good result and to accelerate the program activities of the project during the reporting period. As the Project Coordinator needs to coordinate all the activities of all the 10 focal sites as well as the head office based project activities it is difficult on his part to visit all the focal sites on regular basis. To minimize the gap the monthly meeting has been held where the activities at the field level are reviewed in meticulous details on the basis of the detailed work plan developed by the Project Coordinator. It has been found through the discussion in the meeting that there are some areas outside the focal sites of the project, which are trafficking prone. The Field Officers have been directed to cover the districts adjacent to the focal sites. As a result the activities of the project expanded beyond the focal points in terms of cases, gathering of information, follow up etc.

Result-2: To use district level information regarding trafficking cases to provide assistance to secure more arrests and prosecutions

Investigate the cases of child and women trafficking: The Field Officers and the Investigation Officer of the project investigated more than 112 cases and incidents relating to trafficking women and children. The investigation has been carried out based on the information gathered by visiting fields, other sources such as local newspaper and by visiting brothels, jails and police stations. Out of the investigated cases the project has picked up 55 incidents and proceeded for necessary legal and other actions during the period.

Assist filing cases: A total of 35 cases of trafficking of women and children were filed with different police stations under different districts throughout the country with the assistance of the project during the reporting period. In addition to these, 20 GDs have been filed during the period. List of cases and GDs is enclosed as annex.

Liaison with law enforcing authorities and public prosecutor: The Field Officers of the project maintained constant liaison and communication with the concerned members of the law enforcing agencies including police, BDR, Public Prosecutor (PP) and Assistant Public Prosecutors (APP) to collect information and follow up the progress of the cases. They have established rapport with the PP and APP and assist them along with the Panel Lawyers by providing significant information and mobilizing witnesses to assure proper judgement in trafficking cases. As a result of their relentless endeavors of the Field Officers two judgements were given in favor of the victims of trafficking in which two traffickers have been convicted.

Detect irregularities in the legal procedure and initiative to eliminate those: The concerned Field Officers and Investigator of the project monitored different cases at various levels including investigation and prosecution level to detect irregularities. The Field Officers have been made aware that traffickers sometime enfeeble the cases in connivance with the concerned police official and Public Prosecutor. The Field Officers through their extensive monitoring revealed several irregularities in the legal procedure and also found some irregularities intentionally committed by the members of the law enforcing agencies. For instance in some cases the concerned investigator police official hurriedly gave final report dropping the name of the main accused from the case and without identifying proper witnesses. In some cases trafficking cases have been intentionally made case under passport act. This resulted in acquitting the traffickers from the cases of trafficking. The concerned staff members of the project with the assistance of the panel lawyers protested these sorts of irregularities adopted by law enforcing agencies by giving objection against the final reports and pleaded before the court to issue order for further investigation. Besides, the project through organizing workshops at district level is creating awareness among journalists, lawyers, members of the law enforcing agencies and the cross section of civil society to make them aware of these irregularities and raise their voices against them.

Mobilize the stakeholders for necessary action: During the reporting period the project staff of BNWLA both at national and local level maintained regular communication and liaison with different stakeholders including members of the law enforcing agencies, BDR, ATSEC members, local elected bodies, community people etc. The project also created awareness among them about precarious aspects of trafficking in women and children through organizing various programs to mobilize their support to take necessary action in combating trafficking in their respective localities.

Monitor the legal procedure: The Investigator and Field Officers in association with the Panel Lawyers monitored the legal procedure of 35 cases of trafficking. Some of the cases have been monitored at the investigation level and some at the prosecution level during the reporting period. The concerned project staff provided the relevant police official in charge of investigation with necessary information as well as proper witnesses. They also assisted the concerned Public Prosecutor in obstructing the traffickers from obtaining bails. They also monitored whether the police prepared the charge sheet properly in terms of putting the name of the main accused in the charge

sheet and time frame. They also monitored whether the Public Prosecutor conducted the prosecution in a proper way.

Document the information regarding the cases: Documentation of the information regarding cases under the project is a continuous process. The Investigator and Field Officers of the project gathered detailed information about the cases investigated and filed as part of the activities of the project. The information gathered by investigation is documented at two levels, one at the field level where the Field Officers documented the information for their future action and at the national level the Information Specialist documented the information in a more systematic way using computerized data storing packages of software. The information that was sent by the Investigator and Field Officers to the Information Specialist was cross-checked at the monthly coordination meeting during the period. The Field Officers also gathered information through filling up the questionnaire developed to gather information for the database and the Information Specialist incorporated the information into the database on regular basis.

Result-3: Operationalize the existing legal procedures on child/women trafficking in an effort to secure more arrests and prosecutions

Collect and analyze information related to reporting, arrest and prosecution procedures at district level: The staff members of the project collected detailed information about more than 100 incidents of trafficking in women and children and analyzed the collected information to proceed for taking legal action against the traffickers. After analyzing the information the project found 35 potential cases in terms of ensuring judgement against the traffickers. The information was analyzed at two levels one at the district level where the Field Officers themselves made decision for taking further action based on their experience and in consultation with the local panel lawyer of BNWLA. If the cases had been found complicated then the Field Officers referred them to the head office where the top officials of the project in consultation with the senior lawyers of the organization analyzed the information and accordingly gave directives to the concerned Field Officer to go for further action in this regard. Based on the information collected by the staff of the project a total of 59 alleged traffickers were arrested and two traffickers namely Nurul Haque Peada and Shahidul Islam Shawpon were convicted to life imprisonment under two separate cases related to women and child trafficking in Jessore in August 2001. The concerned Field Officer and Panel Lawyer worked hard by mobilizing witness and keeping constant communication with Public Prosecutor that helped immensely in getting the judgements. The following table shows the list of arrested traffickers during the period July 2001 to December 2001:

Sl. No.	Month	Case No.	Thana/District	No. of Arrested Accused
1.	July 2001	21	Godagari/Rajshahi	1
		228	Kolaroa/Satkhira	2
		339	Sadar/Gopalganj	3
		110/01	Sadar/Gopalganj	1
		3/01	Zhikorgacha/Jessore	1
		205/01	Kolaroa/Satkhira	1
2.	August 2001	27/202	Sadar/Munshiganj	2
		88	Sadar/Bogra	3
		03	Shibganj/Chapainawabganj	3
		01	Godagari/Rajshahi	2
		3/101	Birampur/Dinajpur	1
3.	September 2001	9	Kotwali/Dhaka	2
		14/34	Shiddirganj/Narayanganj	4
		20/20	Shiddirganj/Narayanganj	7
		02/51	Sadar/Narayanganj	3
		P-887	Sadar/Lakshmipur	1
		9	Gomostapur/ Chapainawabganj	1
		248/01	Moralganj/Bagherhat	1
		1(9)/01	Sarankhola/Bagherhat	1
4.	October 2001	101	Motijheel/Dhaka	5
		14	Patgram/Lalmonirhat	2
		43/01	Kotwali/Jessore	2
		505/01	Sadar/Satkhira	1
		519	Sadar/Satkhira	3
5.	November 2001	15	Pallabi/Dhaka	2
		6	Gurudaspur/Natore	1
6.	December 2001	36	Boalia/Rajshahi	3
Total				59

Develop user friendly operational manuals for different groups: The concerned staff including Project Coordinator, Information Specialist and Investigator have prepared the text of two user friendly manuals one on various aspects of trafficking with especial emphasis of legal aspects and actions and the rest on repatriation procedure of trafficked victims from other countries. The manuals have been developed for various groups that include lawyers, law enforcing agencies, NGOs working in the field of trafficking in women and children and other concerned officials who are related with the issue of trafficking in women and children in one way or the other.

Organize one-day workshop at 10 focal sites: A total of Nine one-day workshops at Nine districts were organized during the reporting period. Nine out of 10 workshops stipulated in the reporting phase of the project except one of Dhaka were held. On average 35 participants including high level government officials, local lawyers,

journalists, NGO representatives, members of the law enforcing agencies, local elected representatives and representatives of the civil society participated at each workshop. Different issues of trafficking that include root causes of trafficking, consequences of trafficked victims, route of trafficking and recruiting area, destination of trafficked victims, mechanism used by traffickers, ways and means of combating trafficking including legal action etc. were discussed at the workshops. The facilitators who were mainly the member lawyers of BNWLA also discussed different trafficking related laws including CEDAW and CRC. The project staff developed a comprehensive presentation where all necessary aspects of trafficking in women and children including initiative of BNWLA in combating trafficking were incorporated and they presented it at different workshops during the period.

All the workshops received moderate newspaper coverage in the local and national level newspapers. In addition to these, reports on the workshops at Gopalganj and Cox's Bazar were broadcast by Bangladesh Television, while the workshop at Chapai Nawabganj was reported by Bangladesh Betar (radio).

Result-4: Operationalize the steps required to repatriate children/women from other countries

Identify persons who need to be repatriated: After maintaining constant communications with partner organizations and relevant bodies in different countries the project identified at least 25 persons in different countries who needed to be repatriated and initiated to repatriate them through proper official procedure during the period under review. But due to time-consuming procedure some trafficked victims identified at different parts in India could not be repatriated during the period. It is expected that the remaining survivors who have been identified would be repatriated shortly. Meanwhile the project repatriated 14 trafficked victims from different countries during the period. Of the 14 survivors six were repatriated Kolkata and Mumbai, India, one from Pakistan and seven from United Arab Emirate (UAE). The following table shows the status of repatriation:

Date of Repatriation	Name and Age of Repatriated Victims	Country
10-08-2001	Abu Taleb/Nuru Miah (8)	UAE
10-08-2001	Hasem Ali Miah (10)	UAE
27-08-2001	Jesmin Khatun (16)	Lilua, Kolkata, India
27-08-2001	Rozi (18)	Lilua, Kolkata, India
27-08-2001	Rajida (18)	Lilua, Kolkata, India
27-08-2001	Sheema (13)	Lilua, Kolkata, India
16-09-2001	Moh. Nazrul Islam (12)	Mumbai, India
16-09-2001	Khodeza Noor Gazi (16)	Mumbai, India
25-09-2001	Wahi Toon (45)	Pakistan
04-10-2001	Beauty Begum (26)	UAE
04-10-2001	Ismail (8)	UAE
04-10-2001	Imran (5)	UAE
19-11-2001	Hassan Jalal (12)	UAE
27-11-2001	Raquib Hossain (7)	UAE

Carry out preliminary investigation and contact guardians for authorization: The project staff of BNWLA in consultation with the Executive Director communicated with the partner organizations and the concerned department in different countries regarding repatriation of victims of trafficking. Meanwhile, within the territory the Investigator and the Field Officers carried out preliminary investigations on all the cases and gathered necessary information about the identity of the victims that helped expedite the repatriation process. In some cases the project also informed the Ministry of Home from whom it usually obtains permission for repatriation about the outcome of the investigation. The concerned project staff also contacted guardians of the victims and collected authorization for repatriation and rehabilitation. In case of injured victims the project staff took them to hospital directly from the Airport and ensured proper treatment for them.

Approval from Home Ministry and contact relevant organizations abroad: The project maintained constant liaison and communication and lobbying with the Ministry of Home Affairs to receive their approval that was mandatory for repatriating trafficked victims. Besides, Communication was also maintained on regular basis with the Bangladeshi Embassy/High Commission and BNWLA's partner organizations in different countries to receive their assistance in order to make the repatriation process speedy and smooth.

Visit brothels, jails and police stations to identify the victims of internal trafficking and release them: The Investigation Officer and Field Officers of the project visited police stations, jails, brothels etc. regularly to identify and release victims of internal trafficking. With the help of panel lawyers and sometime member lawyers of BNWLA, the project staff identified more than 35 victims in various jails and brothels of that they were able to release seven victims during the reporting period. Initiative is going on for releasing the rest of the victims from different confinements. Detailed information concerning the internal release of victims are given in the following table:

Date of Release	Name and Age of Released Victims	Place of confinement
12-09-2001	Tamanna Begum (16)	Jamalpur Brothel
28-09-2001	Mausumi (7)	Ramna Thana, Dhaka
20-10-2001	Yusuf (10)	Jhikorghacha Thana, Jessore
08-11-2001	Sabana Khatun (16)	Dinajpur Jail
11-11-2001	Milon (6)	Demra Thana, Dhaka
26-11-2001	Raju Sultana Daisy (14)	Cox's Bazar Jail
27-12-2001	Nazma alias Kamrunnahar (20)	Khulna (Brothel)
Total Released-7		

Result-5: Provide rehabilitation support to trafficking victims

The project has a comprehensive rehabilitation program for the trafficking survivor women and children. The rehabilitation programs include providing safe shelter at a shelter home equipped with requisite facilities like living, medical treatment, psycho-social counseling support, formal and non-formal education, recreational facilities, vocational training on various trades including computer training etc. As victims of sex trafficking were somehow involved in economic transaction that works as a

negative element during their rehabilitation. Therefore special attention is given on their income generating opportunity during the process of rehabilitation. As a result vocational training and ensuring subsequent income generation for the survivors are emphasized during their rehabilitation.

At the beginning of the rehabilitation process the concerned psychologists (staff of other projects of BNWLA) and counselors of the project make an assessment of the degree of trauma of the survivors and decide nature of counseling and treatment for the particular survivor. Medical treatment and psychosocial counseling play an important role in their recovery from a traumatic psychological situation. The psychosocial rehabilitation and medical treatment of the project aims at restoring the victims to a former/normal state and reducing harm, and as enabling the survivors to be as free as possible of the negative physical, psychological and social repercussions of the abuse to which they have been subjected. This program intends to improve towards the pre-existing situation, by trying to increase physical well-being, elevating self-esteem and respect and providing self protection, to a level not previously experienced. The concerned counselors try to identify the potentials and strengths within the child and build on them, promoting their innate flexibility or equipping them with techniques to enhance it. Under its rehabilitation process the project also arrange psychosocial counseling for the families and the community people to sensitize them positively towards the survivors.

The project builds a bridge between the society and the survivors. In this context the project sometime involves the members of the law enforcement authority in building the bridge to ensure rehabilitation of the survivors of trafficking.

Provide psychological and social support to the repatriated/released trafficking victims and their families: The repatriated and internally released trafficked victims are usually psychologically traumatized as they bear dreadful memories of torture and agony. Other members of their families also become demoralized. So they need psychological counseling to overcome their trauma when they are repatriated and/or released from internal confinements. Professional Counselors of the project provided psychological counseling to 14 repatriated victims and seven internally released victims that helped them a lot in overcoming their trauma. After receiving counseling most of the victims became normal and felt confident as dignified members of the society. The project also provided psychosocial counseling and support to the members of the victims' families. These supports were necessary for the victims as well as their families to attain a normal psychological position and regain mental strength to go for legal action against the traffickers at the one hand and think about their future in terms of establishment in the society on the other. The counselors also monitored the facilities of repatriated inmates staying in the shelter home of the organization. The project reintegrated 16 trafficked victims into the family and/or society during the reporting period. The table given below demonstrates the status of rehabilitation of the victims:

Date of Rehabilitation	Name and age of Victims	Place of Rehabilitation
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02-07-2001	Rubina (26)	Family
02-07-2001	Shahedul (7)	Family
02-07-2001	Tanzil (5)	Family
24-07-2000	Sabina Yesmin (23)	Family
15-09-2001	Ali Ahmed Russel (7)	Family
07-10-2001	Beauty Begum (26)	Family
07-10-2001	Ismail (8)	Family
07-10-2001	Imran (5)	Family
11-10-2001	Nazrul Islam (12)	Family
14-11-2001	Rozi (18)	Family
02-12-2001	Raquib Hossain (7)	Family
06-12-2001	Abu Taleb (8)	Family
06-12-2001	Ali Mia (10)	Family
11-12-2001	Delwar (16)	Family
11-12-2001	Ibrahim (16)	Family
12-12-2001	Wahi Toon (45)	Family

Monitor/follow up the rehabilitated survivors: The counselors and Field Officers of the project monitored and followed up 20 rehabilitated victims of trafficking at different districts during the reporting period. During the visits they inquired about the condition and welfare of the rehabilitated persons and took necessary measures as needed.

Establish relationship with other organizations: In some cases the victims of trafficking are rehabilitated through reintegration to their families. And some want to be rehabilitated through getting job. In order to rehabilitate the repatriated and released victims through linkage to employment BN WLA has established and strengthened relationship with some big NGOs such as BRAC, Proshika, ASA, CLPTP partners, ATSEC network member, some industries including renowned garment industries etc. These big organizations can provide employment opportunity to the repatriated and released trafficked victims. BRAC has already provided one inmate of BNWLA with job at one of its branch in Tangail district. Besides, four survivors have been provided with jobs at different big garment factories in the city and they are being regularly followed up by the Counselors of the project. It is expected that a substantial number of victims will be rehabilitated through these organizations by the end of this project.

Result-6: Dialogue workshop in collaboration with other organizations

Dialogue meeting with law enforcing agency, lawyer, BDR and representative from local NGOs on child and women trafficking: To elicit more information about cross border trafficking and other related matters the project envisaged holding dialogue meeting with the aforementioned groups. To this end the project invited mainly members of Police, Detective Branch, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel in almost

all of its workshops held during the period under review. In those workshops the members of the law enforcement agencies interacted spontaneously and shared their experiences with other participants and the representatives of BNWLA. During the discussion with BDR personnel the issue of passport act which is frequently used to enfeeble trafficking cases were highlighted. The project ensured participation of police personnel, lawyers and representatives of NGOs at the workshops to exchange views with them on the issue of trafficking in women and children to make them sensitized. Meanwhile, the Field Officers of the project held meetings with these groups on regular basis in their respective focal sites.